

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 24, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street, SW
Room 8B201
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I have heard from many constituents affected by the ongoing dispute between DirecTV and Sunbeam Television Corporation regarding the amount the satellite provider must pay to continue transmitting broadcast networks. I write to urge you to help bring these parties to a prompt, equitable resolution that restores service to their customers.

As you know, negotiations between Sunbeam and DirecTV have reached an impasse, and Sunbeam has "blacked out" reception to NBC and the CW Network in the Greater Boston metropolitan area. There are currently 200,000 DirecTV customers affected, including more than 30,000 New Hampshire residents who subscribe to the satellite provider.

Through no fault of their own, paying subscribers have become bargaining chips in these negotiations and are being denied access to local news, TV shows, sporting events and other valuable programming. While I understand these negotiations are private, I ask that you use all tools at your disposal to help mediate this dispute. It is essential for consumers in New Hampshire that the two parties reach an accord immediately.

If the dispute is not resolved in the coming days, thousands of New Hampshire sports fans will be unable to watch the New England Patriots compete in the Super Bowl. This is unfair not only to individual viewers but to business establishments across the state. The restaurants and sports bars that subscribe to these local stations stand to lose much-needed revenue. During this time of economic recovery, the last thing these small businesses need is an empty house on game day.

I urge you to help resolve this matter quickly and fairly. Thank you for your attention to this time-sensitive issue.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

February 16, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the retransmission consent negotiations between DIRECTV and Sunbeam Television Corporation. I share your concern for consumers caught in the middle of protracted negotiations. As you know, Commission staff continually monitored this situation and reached out to the parties for status updates. I am pleased that the parties were able to reach an agreement.

Commission staff is reviewing the record developed in response to the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to determine if proposed changes to its retransmission consent rules are warranted. The Commission also remains available as a resource if Congress chooses to revisit the statutory framework for retransmission consent.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JG", is written over the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski